

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1-21. (Canceled)
22. (Previously Presented) A guide wire comprising:
an elongate core composed of a nickel-titanium alloy including a length, a proximal portion, and a distal portion;
a continuous, unitary coil composed of a second material and that surrounds a substantial portion of the length of the core and extends distal of the distal portion of the core; and
a polymeric tip extending from a distal portion of the coil, wherein the tip connects to the core by a polymeric material.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim~~claims~~ 22, wherein the coil surrounds the entire length of the core.

26. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 22₁ wherein the coil extends along the length of the core from the portion of the core near the proximal end of the core to a portion of the core near a distal end of the core.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 22₁ wherein the second material comprises stainless steel.

29. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 22₁ wherein the second material comprises a precipitation hardenable alloy.

30. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 22₁ wherein the distal portion of the core is tapered.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 22₁ wherein the tip includes a radio-opaque material.

33. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 22₁ wherein the coil comprises a pitch that varies at least once along the length of the core.

34. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 22, wherein the coil comprises a coating.

35. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 34, wherein the coating is lubricious.

36. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 34, wherein the coating is colored.

37. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 22, wherein the coil comprises a rectangular cross-section.

38. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 22, wherein the coil comprises a circular cross-section.

39. (Currently Amended) The guide wire of claim 22, wherein the coil comprises a multifilar wire.

40. (Canceled)

41-56. (Canceled)

57. (New) A guide wire comprising:

an elongate core composed of a nickel-titanium alloy including a length, a proximal portion, a distal portion, and a constant diameter along the length;

a continuous, unitary coil composed of a second material and that surrounds a substantial portion of the length of the core and extends distal of the distal portion of the core; and

a polymeric tip extending from a distal portion of the coil, wherein the tip connects to the core by a polymeric material.

58. (New) The guide wire of claim 57, wherein the coil surrounds the entire length of the core.

59. (New) The guide wire of claim 57, wherein the coil extends along the length of the core from the portion of the core near the proximal end of the core to a portion of the core near a distal end of the core.

60. (New) The guide wire of claim 57, wherein the second material comprises stainless steel.

61. (New) The guide wire of claim 57, wherein the second material comprises a precipitation hardenable alloy.

62. (New) The guide wire of claim 57, wherein the tip includes a radio-opaque material.

63. (New) The guide wire of claim 57, wherein the coil comprises a pitch that varies at least once along the length of the core.

64. (New) The guide wire of claim 57, wherein the coil comprises a coating.

65. (New) The guide wire of claim 64, wherein the coating is lubricious.

66. (New) The guide wire of claim 64, wherein the coating is colored.

67. (New) The guide wire of claim 57, wherein the coil comprises a rectangular cross-section.

68. (New) The guide wire of claim 57, wherein the coil comprises a circular cross-section.

69. (New) The guide wire of claim 57, wherein the coil comprises a multifilar wire.

70. (New) A guide wire comprising:
an elongate core composed of a nickel-titanium alloy including a length, a proximal portion, and a distal portion;
a continuous, unitary coil composed of a second material and that surrounds a substantial portion of the length of the core and extends distal of the distal portion of the core, wherein the coil comprises a first coil portion having a first pitch and a second coil portion having a second pitch greater than the first pitch; and
a polymeric tip extending from a distal portion of the coil, wherein the tip connects to the core by a polymeric material.

71. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the second coil portion surrounds the distal portion of the core.

72. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the coil surrounds the entire length of the core.

73. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the coil extends along the length of the core from the portion of the core near the proximal end of the core to a portion of the core near a distal end of the core.

74. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the second material comprises stainless steel.

75. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the second material comprises a precipitation hardenable alloy.

76. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the distal portion of the core is tapered.

77. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the tip includes a radio-opaque material.

78. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the coil comprises a coating.

79. (New) The guide wire of claim 78, wherein the coating is lubricious.

80. (New) The guide wire of claim 78, wherein the coating is colored.

81. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the coil comprises a rectangular cross-section.

82. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the coil comprises a circular cross-section.

83. (New) The guide wire of claim 70, wherein the coil comprises a multifilar wire.

84. (New) A guide wire comprising:
an elongate core composed of a nickel-titanium alloy including a length, a proximal portion, and a distal portion;
a continuous multifilar cross-wound coil composed of a second material and that surrounds a substantial portion of the length of the core and extends distal of the distal portion of the core; and
a polymeric tip extending from a distal portion of the coil, wherein the tip connects to the core by a polymeric material.

85. (New) The guide wire of claim 84, wherein the coil surrounds the entire length of the core.

86. (New) The guide wire of claim 84, wherein the tip includes a radio-opaque material.

87. (New) The guide wire of claim 84, wherein the coil comprises a coating.

88. (New) The guide wire of claim 84, wherein the coil comprises a rectangular cross-section.